

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

The Office Action dated July 3, 2002 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 8 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1, 8 and 13 are independent.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

OFFICE ACTION

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kanai '921. These rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the following reasons.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, claim 1 now more positively recites, in part, an array of testing stations, wherein each of said testing stations includes at least one heating element attached to a first component of a heat pump and wherein each of said testing stations includes at least one sensor connected to a heat pump; a plurality of data acquisition lines each of said plurality of data acquisition lines connected to a separate sensor for each testing station; a plurality of control lines each of said plurality of control lines connected to a second component of separate heat pumps. Kanai '921 shows in FIGS. 1, 3, 6 and 9 a system for testing refrigeration units. However, Kanai '921 fails to teach or suggest the structural connections and elements claimed in the present invention. In particular, an array of testing stations, wherein each of said testing stations includes at least one heating element attached to a first component of a heat pump and wherein each of

said testing stations includes at least one sensor connected to a heat pump; a plurality of data acquisition lines each of said plurality of data acquisition lines connected to a separate sensor for each testing station; a plurality of control lines each of said plurality of control lines connected to a second component of separate heat pumps. Thus, it cannot be said that Kanai '921 teaches or suggests the invention as presently claimed.

In addition, claim 8 now more positively recites, in part, an array of testing stations, wherein each of said testing stations includes at least one heating means attached to a first component of a heat pump for providing a heat load to said heat pump and wherein each of said testing stations includes at least one sensor means coupled to a heat pump to generate test data; a plurality of data acquisition connection means each of said plurality of data acquisition connection means connected to a separate sensor means for each testing station; a plurality of control connection means each of said plurality of control connection means connected to a second component of separate heat pumps. Kanai '921 shows in FIGS. 1, 3, 6 and 9 a system for testing refrigeration units. However, Kanai '921 fails to teach or suggest the structural connections and elements claimed in the present invention. In particular, an array of testing stations, wherein each of said testing stations includes at least one heating means attached to a first component of a heat pump for providing a heat load to said heat pump and wherein each of said testing stations includes at least one sensor means coupled to a heat pump to generate test data; a plurality of data acquisition connection means each of said plurality of data acquisition connection means connected to a separate sensor means for each testing station; a plurality of control connection means each of said plurality of control connection means connected to a second

component of separate heat pumps. Thus, it cannot be said that Kanai '921 teaches or suggests the invention as presently claimed.

Moreover, claim 13 recites, in part, providing a first control signal to a first component of a plurality of heat pumps to operate a function of said heat pumps; providing a second control signal to a plurality of heating elements, said heating elements placing a head load on said heat pumps. Kanai '921 (col. 10, lines 1-12) lacks any teaching or suggestion for the step of providing a second control signal to a plurality of heating elements, said heating elements placing a head load on said heat pumps. It is further unclear what motivation, if any, is shown in Kanai '921 in order to create such a step. Furthermore, the process disclosed in Kanai' 921 (col. 10, lines 13-58) again lacks any teaching or suggestion for the step of providing a second control signal to a plurality of heating elements, said heating elements placing a head load on said heat pumps as presently claimed.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the invention recited in claims 1, 8 and 13 is patentable over Kanai '921. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining depending claims are allowable for at least the reasons given herein.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the application are believed in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite issuance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned agent at 202/861-1748.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean A. Pryor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sean" and last name "Pryor" clearly distinguishable.

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Attachment – Appendix

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Appendix – Marked-up Version of Claims

Claims 1, 8 and 13 have been amended as follows:

1.(Amended) [Test] A test system for simultaneously testing a plurality of heat pumps, comprising:

an array of testing stations, wherein each of said testing stations includes at least one heating element [for attachment] attached to a first component of a heat pump and wherein each of said testing stations includes at least one sensor connected to a heat pump;

a plurality of data acquisition lines each of said plurality of data acquisition lines connected to a separate sensor for each testing station;

a plurality of control lines each of said plurality of control lines connected to a second component of separate heat pumps; and

a control device which receives test data through said data acquisition lines and transmits control data over said control lines.

8. (Amended) {Test} A test system for simultaneously testing a plurality of heat pumps, comprising:

an array of testing stations, wherein each of said testing stations includes at least one heating means [which can be] attached to a first component of a heat pump for providing a heat load to said heat pump and wherein each of said testing stations includes at least one sensor means coupled to a heat pump to generate test data;

a plurality of data acquisition connection means each of said plurality of data acquisition connection means connected to a separate sensor means for each testing station;

a plurality of control connection means each of said plurality of control connection means connected to a second component of separate heat pumps; and

a control means which receives test data through said data acquisition connection means and transmits control data over said control [lines] connection means.

13. (Amended) A method of testing a plurality of heat pumps, simultaneously comprising the steps of:

providing a first control signal to a first component of a plurality of heat pumps to operate a function of said heat pumps;

providing a second control signal to a plurality of heating [element] elements, said heating elements placing a head load on said heat pumps;

receiving data from a plurality of sensors coupled to said heat pumps; and

comparing said received data to accepted performance parameters for said heat pumps.